

*Melancon Provision Ensures Feds will Pay 100% of Ike Recovery Projects*

December 2, 2009

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that Terrebonne Parish, St. Bernard Parish, St. Bernard Parish School Board, St. John the Baptist Parish, and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will receive federal reimbursement grants totaling \$14,118,797.97. These grants, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, will reimburse the parishes and DNR for Hurricane Katrina and Ike recovery projects.

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**"Louisianians have worked tirelessly to clean up the mess caused by recent hurricanes and rebuild the roads, bridges, schools, and other community facilities that were damaged in the storms," said Rep. Melancon. "Last June, we passed legislation to reduce the burden on Louisiana for Hurricane Ike recovery projects, and today Terrebonne and St. John the Baptist Parishes are reaping the benefits of that change with these 100%-federally funded projects. As an advocate for Louisiana in Congress, I will continue working to secure more federal funding for these recovery projects, so our parishes and school boards can dedicate their resources to other needs."**

The following grants were announced today:

**Terrebonne Parish**

- **\$1,623,336.12 to Terrebonne Parish for demolition and debris removal costs.** Storm surge from Hurricane Ike caused massive flooding throughout the parish and rendered many houses structurally unsound and in imminent danger of collapse. This grant reimburses the parish for the demolition of approximately 111 residential structures. Because of

[legislation](#)

Congressman Melancon worked to enact last June, the federal government will cover 100% of the cost of this project.

**St. Bernard Parish**

- **\$1,006,470.98 to St. Bernard Parish for road and bridge repairs.** Storm surge and flooding from Hurricane Katrina damaged the canal crossings within the parish, which are owned by the St. Bernard Parish Department of Public Works. The grant announced today will reimburse the parish for repairing culvert barrels, fences, guardrails and floodgates at seven canal crossings within the parish. This grant version increases the funding amount to cover

additional storm-related damages not included in previous versions.

- **\$1,488,645 to St. Bernard Parish to replace Aycock Barn.** Floodwaters and storm surge from Hurricane Katrina damaged to this public facility in St. Bernard Parish beyond repair. This grant version announced today includes additional costs to replace two storage sheds that were not included in previous grant versions.

- **\$3,771,910 to St. Bernard Parish School Board to replace Lacoste Elementary School.** During Hurricane Katrina, the school building's interior was damaged from floodwaters that reached over 12 feet and strong winds that damaged the roof beyond repair. The federal reimbursement grant announced today increases the funding amount to cover additional repair expenses.

### **St. John the Baptist Parish**

- **\$5,011,635.87 to St. John the Baptist Parish for debris removal after Hurricane Ike.** This grant reimburses the parish for excavation work/drainage clean up and storm drain cleaning costs. Because of

[legislation](#)

Congressman Melancon worked to enact last June, the federal government will cover 100% of the cost of this project.

### **Louisiana Department of Natural Resources**

- **\$1,216,800 to the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources for repairing Montegut marsh-protection structure.** The Montegut project structure protects 4200 acres of marsh from saltwater intrusion. The structure is 163 ft. long and is constructed of wooden pile, steel sheet pile, and aluminum flow gates. Hurricane Ike's tidal surge damaged the wooden piles, allowing the steel sheeting and gates to bend. This grant will reimburse DNR for repairing this marsh-protection structure.

Congressman Melancon has worked in Congress to reduce the financial burden on Louisiana's parish governments, sheriff's offices, school boards and other public entities for Hurricane Katrina and Ike recovery projects. At his request, Congress [passed legislation](#) in June reducing or eliminating the local cost share for Hurricane Ike recovery projects in Louisiana.

This change could save the state and local governments up to \$25 million, according to estimates by the Louisiana Governor's Office on Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Congressman Melancon continues to work to eliminate the local cost share for

Louisiana's Hurricane Gustav recovery projects.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congressman Melancon also worked to pass legislation [w](#)  
[aiving 100 percent](#)  
of the local cost share requirement for disaster recovery projects in Louisiana. Before the local  
cost share was waved, many of the estimated 23,000 disaster recovery projects in Louisiana  
had been put on hold because local governments did not have the resources to provide the  
match.

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